

Chairwoman Waukau's Notes

May 15, 2007

Poso My Fellow Menominees:

On the matter of the recall of Louis Washinawatok from MTE Board of Directors, the Legislature held a recall hearing on Monday May 7th. Mr. Washinawatok was charged by the legislature with the following: violation of Ordinance 81-08, timber theft and timber trespass, dishonesty, conflict of interest by using a contracted MTE attorney as a MTE Board of Director. After listening to the presentation of both sides, the Legislature had the following motion by legislator Fish: " In the matter of the Louis Washinawatok removal proceedings of May 7, 2007; I move pursuant to Ordinance 93-5 Conflict of interest Amendment to the Menominee Tribal Enterprise Management Plan 5n(2) to reprimand and demand Mr. Washinawatok refrain from any and all decisions with regard to the federal lawsuit against MTE (specifically the OIG case) as long as Leonard, Street, and Dinard represents MTE and Mr. Washinawatok and by complying with this, the recall vote shall be held in abeyance." Motion carried: 6 for, 1 opposed (Caldwell), 1 abstention (R. Washinawatok) and 0 absent. The process was very long, deliberative, with many witnesses, and much discussion by the Legislators. But, by the end of the evening, the Legislature felt that the tribe had not proven to everyone's satisfaction that Mr. Washinawatok's actions rose to the level of demanding his recall from the BOD. The reasons the legislature arrived at this decision was because the 81-08 violation was dismissed from our tribal court and Mr. Washinawatok was not a member of the BOD when the incident took place, the timber trespass issue is still on appeal, the dishonesty charge was without specificity therefore it would have been difficult for Mr. Washinawatok to defend, and on the conflict of interest issue, there was no clear evidence that Mr. Washinawatok was unjustly enriched by the law firm's representation and furthermore, he was not part of the hiring process of Lenonard, Street, and Dinard. I applaud the Legislature for showing strong leadership in arriving at their decision and assuring that Mr. Washinawatok's due process rights were safeguarded.

St. Michaels is having their annual church festival on June 2nd and raffle tickets are still available. Second prize is \$1,000.00 in cash which we could all use.

Fay Waupochick will be giving the Commencement Address at the MISD graduation on May 25th at the high school. Fay retired from district after serving many years as the librarian at both middle and high school. The Headstart children are having their promotion ceremonies this weekend and the native students at Shawano high school are having their annual spring pow-wow today.

The legislature had breakfast with Terry Virden this week. Mr. Virden is the Bureau's regional director stationed in Minneapolis. Terry is a Chippewa from White Earth and his background is in forestry. We had an enjoyable time with much good discussion on a variety of issues.